AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for screening a call, comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

providing a notification of the call to a device associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

accepting the call for the device based on a determination that the calling party number is valid.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising:

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid based on a determination that the user has not responded to the notification after a predetermined period of time, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is invalid.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the call screening function comprises:

playing an announcement to the calling party.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein playing an announcement comprises playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and prompting the calling party to record a name or enter an override code.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

routing the call to the device associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user.

10. (Original) A method for screening a call, comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the call;

determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

selecting a device associated with the user to receive a notification of the call based on the retrieved data;

providing the notification of the call to the selected device following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the call screening function comprises:

playing an announcement to the calling party.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein playing an announcement comprises playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and prompting the calling party to record a name or enter an override code.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

routing the call to the device associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the call screening function further comprises:

disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user.

17. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

means for receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

means for determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

means for determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

means for providing a notification of the call to a device associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

means for initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, comprising:

means for accepting the call for the device based on a determination that the calling party number is valid.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, comprising:

means for determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid based on a determination that the user has not responded to the notification after a predetermined period of time, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is invalid.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the call screening function comprises:

means for playing an announcement to the calling party.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein means for playing an announcement comprises means for playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and means for prompting the calling party to record a name or enter an override code.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the call screening function comprises:

means for routing the call to the device associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the call screening function comprises:

means for ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the call screening function comprises:

means for placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the call screening function comprises:

means for disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user.

26. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

means for receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

means for retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the call;

means for determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

means for determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

means for selecting a device associated with the user to receive a notification of the call based on the retrieved data corresponding to the user;

means for providing the notification of the call to the selected device following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

means for initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

27. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

a memory having a program that: receives information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party; determines whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user; determines whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid; provides a notification of the call to a device

associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and initiates the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option; and

a processor that runs the program.

28. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

a memory having a program that: receives information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party; retrieves data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the call; determines whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user; determines whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid; selects a device associated with the user to receive a notification of the call based on the retrieved data corresponding to the user; provides the notification of the call to the selected device following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and initiates the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option; and

a processor that runs the program.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium <u>encoded with</u> ~~containing~~ instructions <u>capable of being executed by a computer</u> for performing a method for screening a call, the method comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

providing a notification of the call to a device associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

30. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, the method comprising:

accepting the call for the device based on a determination that the calling party number is valid.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, the method comprising:

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid based on a determination that the user has not responded to the notification after a predetermined period of time, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is invalid.

32. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the call screening function comprises:

playing an announcement to the calling party.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein playing an announcement comprises playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and prompting the calling party to record a name or enter an override code.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the call screening function comprises:

routing the call to the device associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code.

35. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the call screening function comprises:

ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the call screening function comprises:

placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the call screening function comprises:

disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with containing instructions capable of being executed by a computer for performing a method for screening a call, the method comprising:

receiving information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

retrieving data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the call;

determining whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

selecting a device associated with the user to receive a notification of the call based on the retrieved data corresponding to the user;

providing the notification of the call to the selected device following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

initiating the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the call screening function comprises:

playing an announcement to the calling party.

40. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein playing an announcement comprises playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and prompting the calling party to record a name or enter an override code.

41. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the call screening function comprises:

routing the call to the device associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code.

42. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the call screening function comprises:

ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code.

43. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the call screening function comprises:

placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name.

44. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the call screening function comprises:

disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user.

45. (Original) A method for screening a call, comprising:

receiving notification of a call to a user at a device associated with the user, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option, the notification being received following a determination that a real-time call management function is enabled for the user, wherein when the real-time call management function is not enabled for the user, a call screening function is performed if a calling party number associated with the calling party is determined to be invalid;

receiving input from the user indicative of selection of the call screening option; and

sending, to a server, information reflective of the selection of the call screening option, wherein the server initiates the call screening function responsive to the selection of the call screening option.

46. (Original) A device for screening a call, comprising:

a memory having a program that: receives notification of a call to a user at a device associated with the user, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option, the notification being received following a determination that a real-time call management function is enabled for the user, wherein when the real-time call management function is not enabled for the user, a call screening function is performed if a calling party number associated with the calling party is determined to be invalid; receives input from the user indicative of selection of the call screening option; and sends information to a server reflective of the selection of the call screening option, wherein the server initiates the call screening function responsive to the selection of the call screening option;

a user interface that displays the notification; and

a processor that runs the program.

47. (Original) A system for screening a call, comprising:

a voice network;

a data network;

a plurality of devices associated with a user; and

a service center operable to:

receive information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party;

determine whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user;

determine whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid;

provide a notification of the call to one of the plurality of devices associated with the user via the data network following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option;

and initiate the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

48. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

a first server operable to receive information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party; determine whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user; determine whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid; and provide a notification of the call to a device associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

a second server operable to initiate the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.

49. (Original) An apparatus for screening a call, comprising:

a first server operable to receive information pertaining to a call to a user from a calling party; retrieve data corresponding to the user using the information pertaining to the call; determine whether a real-time call management function is enabled for the user; determine whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid; select a device associated with the user to receive a notification of the call based on the retrieved data corresponding to the user; and provide the notification of the call to the selected device following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option; and

a second server operable to initiate the call screening function when the user selects the call screening option.